

**Annual Meeting of Epwell Parish Council  
via Zoom  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 8pm**

**MINUTES**

Present

Cllr. Hurst

Cllr. Lloyd-Thomas

Cllr. Rudge

Cllr. White

Cllr. Neal

Clerk Jacqui Harris

6 Members of the Public

40/21 Apologies Cllr. Reynolds CDC

41/21 Cllr. Hurst, the current Chair, said he was not standing again and he proposed Cllr. Lloyd-Thomas for the role of Chairman. No other candidates came forward. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Neal, with all in favour. Cllr. Lloyd-Thomas took the Chair and thanked his predecessor for his hard work and firm leadership over the years. He then signed the Declaration paperwork

42/21 Declarations of Interests – None

Meeting closed at 2005 hrs and the Ordinary meeting opened

**Ordinary Meeting of Epwell Parish Council  
Via Zoom  
Tues 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 8.05 pm  
Minutes**

43/21 Formal announcements from the Chair

- a. This will hopefully be the last zoom meeting; the village hall can be used if social distancing measures can be enforced. Alternatively the pavilion may be used, weather permitting. Virtual Zoom meetings may be necessary. A decision will be made nearer the time of a meeting
- b. Ark Nursery - Julia Neal and her staff thanked for all her hard work at the nursery over the last 24years. Official thank you from the Paris Council. Cllr Neal requested to pass on best wishes and thanks to Julia
- c. Cllr. Rudge announced that it should be officially recognised in the minutes by the Parish Council to mark the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh. That the local community felt this loss and that local flags were lowered in respect

44/21 Public participation

- a. 21/01081/F Mr Matthew Platt - Erection of a 15m x 25m (375 sqm) agricultural storage barn with a ridge height of 7.2m Location: Land East Of, Epwell Road, Sibford Gower  
Mr Platt outlined his rationale for his planning application. He explained the barns height was dictated by the footprint. He was prepared to plant trees and hedging to disrupt the silhouette from the footpath on the far side of his field. No power would be needed. The 2 harvest per annum would be in the summer and require no lighting in the barn. The equipment for distilling the lavender would be gas powered from bottles. Waste products from the production process

would be organic and used for horse bedding. In addition to the production of lavender oil the barn was required for the storage and security of farm equipment

b. 20 is Plenty

Sir Charles Pollard outlined his support for the 20 is Plenty initiative

He informed the Council that he believed Cllr G Reynolds to be a supporter of the scheme. The residents of Epwell who live on Sibford Road are concerned at the inappropriate speed of all types of vehicles including cyclists. He believed there was evidence to suggest the 20 is plenty schemes work and requested that EPC take it on to make the local roads safer

C Mr Chris Woodcock thanked the EPC for the grant of £100 to support the Epwell Echo

45/21 Finance

- a. Cashbook and bank reconciliation for 2020-21 Resolved to accept as correct
- b. Approval of Annual Accounts for 2020-21 Resolved to accept and approve
- c. Approval of Certificate of Exemption from assurance review or audit of accounts noted. Criterion is that the higher of gross income or expenditure for the year is less than £25,000
- d. Approval asset register May 2021 – Resolved to accept
- e. Budget 2021- 22 and cashbook so far this financial year. Resolved to accept

46/21 Current and Future Planning Matters

- a. 21/00405/F Meadows Edge, Sibford Road, Epwell, OX15 6LH Single storey rear extension and boot room. Resolved no objection
- b. 21/00749/F Yew Tree Cottage, Church Lane. Remodel existing single storey extension replacing flat roof with double pitched roof, plain clay tiles. Resolved no objection
- c. 21/01190/LB & 21/01189/F Rectory Farm House. Single story extension to provide utility room. Extension of 1metre to existing planning permission 20/01510/F. Erection of two bay car shelter. Replacement of existing 20<sup>th</sup> century porch with Georgian style porch. Resolved no objection
- d. 21/01127/LB Yarnhill House re-roof with reusable slate tiles Resolved No objection
- e. 21/01081/F presentation made during public participation. Council discussed the application and RESOLVED not to object but would like to comment.  
Epwell Parish Council does not object to the proposal to establish a small agricultural holding to harvest and distil lavender oil. However, EPC has concerns over the size of the proposed barn. EPC believes that the barn is disproportionately large for the size of the agricultural activity proposed

47/21 Correspondence

- a. Local resilience - SSEN's community fund, our community has not been impacted by Covid to such an extent that it requires financial support. RESOLVED not to apply
- b. Community emergency planning – Ongoing
- c. CPRE survey Sewage, flooding, water issues previous Chair responded to the survey
- d. 20 is plenty, discussion later
- e. Roads – comments on poor roads. Cllr Lloyd-Thomas encourages all residents to use fixmystreet.com to report road issues to the council
- f. NHS talking space – to be shared with the Epwell Echo, mental health and referral ongoing - Cllr Hurst to follow up
- g. Better broadband for Oxfordshire. Most residents have broadband. Any future initiatives to increase the working speed of broadband will be supported by EPC

48/21 Standing orders – accepted and will be published on village website, which is in the design phase

#### 49/21 Road and highways update

- a. Passing places on Church Lane. The Council has not approved the creation of several passing places on Church Lane. EPC has no knowledge of who and how they were created. Cllr Rudge suggested that the damage done to the grass verge by the creation of the passing places, could be rectified by raking and the sowing of grass seed. The Wildlife habitats group to discuss this further
- b. Salt bins: topped up from the big bag opposite The Orchard. Bag yet to be moved, awaiting suggestions and how to and where to move it. Resolved. Volunteer group to work on improving the area until bin relocated
- c. Parking on The Green near to Bird Lane – No further reports of this continuing
- d. 20 is plenty - Discussed by Council. RESOLVED explore further and carry out research into costs of various options including, Placement of 20 is plenty signs on the 30mph signs and the cost of digital monitoring and display options
- e. Footpath's update. 2 new gates requested by Mr A White RESOLVED to provide two new gates, Mr White will install the gates.  
EPC will need to discuss and clarify in a future meeting the responsibilities of the landowners for the maintenance of the gates on their property. Cllr Rudge gave an update to the Parish Council on the rest of the footpaths  
Cllr Hurst highlighted the potential future difficulties if landowners were permitted to deviate footpaths from the route outlined on the definitive map

#### 50/21 Verges and areas accessible to public

- a. Volunteers needed to do the grips, clean signs etc . A working party of volunteers will be assembled during the summer to undertake all manner of village maintenance
- b. Wildlife habitats group – update from local resident Lady Allison Pollard and Cllr Hurst
- c. Playing Field –EPC would like to thank the many able hands both young and not so young that worked one sunny Saturday to prepare the playground for the much anticipated return of normal life. Further maintenance is required. Cllr White is investigating ways to minimise rot to any new support posts that are installed
- d. EPWELL RECREATION AREA committee. Reform the group to push on with next phase of development. Cllr Neal and Mrs Donna Boyles to discuss the future organisation of ERA. RESOLVED to sit under the umbrella of the Parish Council as a subcommittee
- e. Donations via phone App –possible way of fund raising from users of the playground - ONGOING
- f. Poo bins. Third poo bin (by the Green) installed. Cllr Lloyd Thomas to continue to empty the 3 bins
- g. Community Emergency Plan and EVA news – OCC request . Cllr Hurst leading on this, now almost complete awaiting update from PCC Church Warden and VH – ongoing
- h. EVA continues as a WhatsApp group for if and when it is needed

#### 51/21 Village communication

- a. EPC email network –. The need to communicate with residents who are not online remains an issue. The village website, Epwell events and Facebook are effective methods of communication for those online. Further discussion is necessary
- b. Village website update – A new village website is in production.

52/21 First Aid in the village. Defib at the Village Hall is EPC's responsibility. First Aid course for up to 12 people is proposed for July - ongoing

53/21 Traffic through the village. Update on post code/satnav suggestion for keeping heavy lorries away from the narrow roads in the village. Update on appropriate signs and posts to discourage use of the Church Lane exit from The Square – ongoing

Meeting closed 2154 hours      Future meetings Tuesday 13/7/21